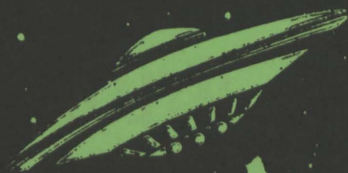
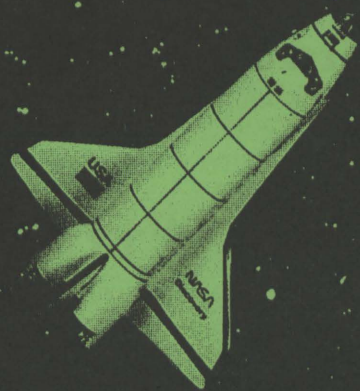


THE
AUSTRALIAN

U.F.O.

BULLETIN



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WELCOME

The Society welcomes reports of unusual phenomena. These are evaluated on their own merits and if requested are kept in the strictest confidence.

The Society exchanges information with similar Australian and overseas organisations, as well as scientists, and disseminates to the public information on local, interstate and overseas developments in its quarterly publication, the "Australian U.F.O. Bulletin", which is posted to all members.

All communications should be addressed per the return address shown on the rear of this bulletin.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For details of your membership renewal, refer to the month/year coding on the address label of your latest bulletin. This indicates the last bulletin for which you are financial - we would appreciate your renewal by the date shown.



Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

P.O. Box 1043, Moorabbin, Vic. 3189, Australia
INCORPORATED 1988

Comments are welcome, address email to vufors@ozemail.com.au
VUFORS Web page at <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~vufors>

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MARCH 2003

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V.U.F.O.R.S. takes this opportunity to wish all of our readers a Safe, Happy and Healthy 2003.

Now we are well into the year 2003 and having read numerous publications from overseas with their reports of UFOs and their idiosyncrasies, I feel we might at last be fortunate enough to experience some of the same excitement. For some time now, people have been reporting and studying UFOs in one of our country mountain areas - and it has been exciting! If you happen to ask the residents about the lights, they are usually not very interested.

Someone who spoke to us had asked a policeman what he thought about the lights and his comment was "Oh! Those 'B' Things." Apparently the people in the towns of Ballarat, Bendigo and Halls Gap, have 'lived with these UFOs' for some considerable time, sufficient for them to be treated with ignore, so one cannot anticipate assistance from many of the town's residents, perhaps that's why the 'lights' are still around the area - few are taking an interest in them! I would like to have a geologist take an interest in what may be under the earth's surface in that area. It may give us an inkling as to why they are here.

We have had a large number of phone calls on UFOs recently, but there are still some which seem to escape our **HOTLINE (03) 9506 7080**, if you can assist by spreading the word that we have a hotline, web site and email address for reports, I'm sure we will have even more interesting reports to present to you.

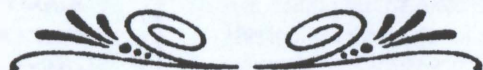
To SUFOG - our thanks for giving us a mention in your publication. We wish your Group the best of everything for this year, and look forward to further newsy publications from you.

We made enquiries regarding our meeting venue and were informed that the entrance to the hall is still from Victoria Street. There may also be some difficulties regarding parking.

If you have heard any snippets of UFO news we may not have heard, please bring them along and share them with us, since many of us come from opposite ends of Melbourne, or even country areas and may have interesting reports to make.

It is very rewarding to see some of our members from years back rejoining and taking an active interest in the investigative side of the organisation.

We have a member from an outer city area - Judith McGinness, who is extremely keen, and has become one of our investigators. This lady has given a number of talks on the subject at various venues and we know she is very capable. We hope she will derive much pleasure from her interest.



There is a vast difference between the crop circles made in England and the ground marks made in Australia, where ground marks have been recorded when an object has been seen sitting on the ground, leaving the imprint. The crop circles in England are more sophisticated and apparently are made by some other means.

An outstanding example of a ground marking case in Australia was the White Acres case, which occurred on 30 September, 1980 (see "The White Acres Encounter", page 7, this edition).

I am not aware of any object reported on the ground where a crop circle is made, but they have been reported flying over areas in England where the crop circles have appeared. This may mean that they are made by the application of directed microwave or other electromagnetic energy into the crop stalks.

Two observations following are interesting in that patterns that have appeared on pale yellow UFOs are similar to some I have observed in English crop circles. It might be that not having access to crops in the Wartook Valley, which is primarily forest, other means must be used to display these kinds of patterns.

One, in which a pale yellow object that apparent the size of the moon, with 35 to 40 red circular lights thereon, (see page 4, September 2002 Bulletin) reminded me of an English crop circle photograph I saw many years ago.

The second, the sighting that occurred on 7th May, 2002 (see page 3, December 2002 Bulletin) in which numerous black dots appear on a pale yellow background, has a similar pattern to

that appearing in a relatively recent English crop circle.

A report has been published showing a crop circle, which appears to include an ASCII, encoded message. The details are controversial and interesting. I am keen to encourage others to pay close attention to this kind of detail, which indicates the presence of intelligence.

We are paying close attention to see if other designs appear on the large objects in the Grampians. We do not know what method of contact other civilisations would use to contact our civilisation, or even whether they are interested in contact.

Humans would perhaps, go in with all guns blazing. As one scientist suggested, "Shoot them down to see if they are friendly!"

There is erratic compass activity reported in some English crop circles as well as in some imprints left by objects on the ground. This would result from the presence of powerful changing magnetic fields, sufficient to leave such a significant magnetic residue.

During 1991 I was in England taking magnetometer readings in crop circles with BUFORA's Investigator, Bob Digby. One circle, at a particular location, showed one magnetic polarity, and the next day, the reading indicated that a polarity reversal had occurred at that same location.

On 26th December 2002, an experiment was repeated in the Grampians that was performed there several months ago, with a similar result. A small red laser pointer was aimed in the gen-

On The UFO Trail

eral direction of the glowing objects and they immediately ceased glowing.

Several minutes later, they started glowing after a specific spotlight was flashed a few times in their direction. Repeating the exercise shortly after, gave similar results.

The results of these experiments are interesting as they indicate that the glowing objects recognise that particular flashing spotlight as relatively benign. They are happy to resume glowing shortly after the flashing. On the other hand, the red laser pointer is seen as much more threatening, judging from their responses. Other experiments are planned,

We now have two additional observers in the Grampians, with their own telescopes, who have joined the team. One telescope has a camera with time delay exposure capability. These telescopes have been used to successfully observe the activities of the glowing objects, and photograph them.

The nearest that I have come to a close encounter with a non-human was a costly collision with a kangaroo that was in a suicidal mood. I would like to point out the danger of these critters. They are all over the mountains.

Other surprise encounters include those with busses, cars and trucks that I have met driving on their side of the road and mine as well! This can be particularly exciting when one takes a daylight drive and realises the steepness of the cliffs at the side of the road. Elephant's Hide, a cliff face with the apparent colour and texture of elephant's skin is a particularly striking example of such cliffs. It is a long way to the bottom!

During the daylight hours, prior to the appearance of the glowing objects, I like to investigate

the interesting tourist activities available in the area. I have visited Carey Park; forty acres nestled in the beautiful Wartook Valley, where the wild life comes to you. This includes those friendly hopping kangaroos.

I have also stayed at a Bed and Breakfast in Carey Park, primarily to observe the activities of the glowing objects from a different direction. The daylight panoramic view from my room was magnificent, and up to 300 kangaroos can be seen at a time.

These kangaroos come right up to the porch where guests are sitting and stare one in the face, possibly puzzled at seeing tame humans. I have spotted UFOs from here and sightings have been reported throughout the mountains.

With so many fresh water lakes high in the mountains, the Grampians have the largest fresh water gravity supply in the world. All of the lakes are teeming with fish. I have brought tackle and fished while waiting for the UFOs.

The Grampians rise abruptly from the Wimmera and Western Plains and are the southwestern extremity of the Great Dividing Range. They run roughly North and South in three main sets of ranges, covering an area of about 100 kilometres in length, and 50 kilometres in width.

The Victorian Range is noted for its beautiful native wildflowers, and has the largest collection of Aboriginal Art sites in Victoria. Bramduk National Park and Cultural Centre maintains a complete illustrated history of the people who have lived in the area since before the arrival of Europeans. It is expected that the Bramduk people will be able to cast light on the history and duration of UFO activity in the region. Some information has already come to light.

Does ET See Earth As A Wildlife Reserve

Terence Dickinson

The Toronto Star, Sunday, October 20, 2002

Delve Report, October 2002

Gene Duplantier, 17 Shetland St., Toronto, Ontario Canada

According to an Angus Reid poll, 70 per cent of Canadians responded either "definitely" or "probably" when asked if they think intelligent extraterrestrials inhabit other worlds. Twenty-eight percent disagreed and 2 percent expressed no opinion.

I'm not surprised. I have taken similar polls of my astronomy classes and lecture audiences and the result is always around 85 per cent on the side of extraterrestrials. Of course, there is a selection effect at work in astronomy courses and talks that would explain the somewhat higher percentage but I always suspected that my little informal surveys must be a good reflection of opinion at large.

Support for the notion of intelligent life on other worlds comes first and foremost from the colossal number of stars in the known universe.

Images from the Hubble Space Telescope tell the numbers story. They reveal the universe's content out to billions of light-years from Earth. From the numbers of galaxies seen on the Hubble pictures, astronomers estimate that, at minimum, there are 50 billion galaxies in the known universe. Since a typical galaxy contains 100 billion stars, the universe's cargo of stars must be at least 5 billion trillion, give or take a billion trillion or so.

When faced with such staggering numbers, most people think it is more reasonable to assume that

we are not alone. As the Greek scholar Metrodorus put it in the fourth century B.C., "To consider Earth the only populated world in infinite space is as absurd as to assert that in an entire field sown with seed, only one grain will grow."

Nobody knows what Metrodorus would have thought about the idea of aliens visiting Earth, but we know from the survey what Canadians think. Fifty-five per cent agree that it is "very likely" or "somewhat likely" that Earth has been visited in the past. And 43 percent think it is more likely than not that during their lifetimes extraterrestrials will visit Earth.

Although I think it is plausible, perhaps even likely, that during the Earth's 4 billion year history creatures from planet Xgorf, or wherever, might have given our world an examination, I part company with the nearly half of Canadians expecting visitors from the sky to descend any day. I think there are compelling arguments suggesting that if they aren't here already, they're not coming. And I don't think alien abduction stories about bulbous-eyed little creatures or any other UFO reports offer credible evidence that we are being visited.

I think the high numbers accepting the idea that an alien visitation might be imminent have been swayed by the ubiquitous TV "documentaries" parading story after story of unexplained sightings of UFOs, alien abductions, crop circles and

Does ET See Earth As A Wildlife Reserve

other such events. It can make compelling watching, but there is not a single case that offers serious evidence that ET is here.

We may not be alone but I think if our cosmic cousins are out there, they long ago decided to

keep their distance and designated Earth as a wildlife preserve.

Terence Dickinson is editor of Skynews magazine and the author of several books for backyard astronomers.

Grampians 'Hot Spot' For UFOs

By Nathan Anderson

The Spectator, Hamilton, Thursday, December 19, 2002

The Grampians has been identified as a 'hot spot' for Unidentified Flying Objects.

In the latest edition of The Australian UFO Bulletin, sightings investigations officer, Paul Norman, reports on a series of sightings in the National Park.

He has seen the objects above the Roses Gap area on a number of occasions, and up to 20 can be seen at any one time.

He said his first sighting in the Grampians lasted just a few seconds.

Big white glow

"It was a big white glow. It went out and there was a smaller yellow one glowing," Mr Norman told the Spectator. Then there were 35-40 red lights, equally spaced, above and below. Then they started vibrating horizontally.

"To do this there has to be some intelligence.

"The whole thing lasted five seconds." Stawell UFO watcher, Steve Swanwick, has visited the

park every night since June last year, with sightings most nights.

He said the objects appeared to be communicating.

"I've seen them. They'd be six to eight km apart and one will start to signal. If you do the same (by flashing a torch), they will signal back," he said.

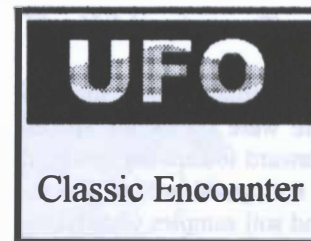
Craft respond

Mr Swanwick said no matter the number of craft, there was always a larger one to which the smaller craft appeared to respond.

"They are not any type of conventional aircraft," Mr Swanwick said.

He sent footage of the objects, taken in 1997, to the United States where it was analysed and proved to be a UFO.

"They can sit in the one spot for one or two hours or they can take off in one or two seconds."



The White-Acres Encounter

1980

By Pat Gildea

Location: 19 kilometres due west of Sale, Victoria, on the Princes Highway.
A cattle-grazing property of approximately 500 acres called "White-Acres".
Time and Date: Tuesday, 30th September 1980, 01:00 a.m. - 01:50 a.m.
Principal Witness: Mr. George Blackwell, the Property station-hand.
Weather Conditions: A clear star-studded sky, calm, no wind with a full moon.

The Sighting

Mr. Blackwell awoke from his sleep to the noise of his horse galloping around the paddock in panic, the bellowing of cattle nearby and an unusual whistling sound. Glancing at his bedside clock - 01:00 a.m. - he arose in haste and went to the back porch to investigate the commotion.

Being unable to view the horse from the porch due to a small shed, Mr. Blackwell climbed onto the top porch rail to view the animal.

Immediately, his attention was drawn to an object flying low from a southwesterly direction, just below a clump of trees. The object was approximately 550 feet from the porch. Mr. Blackwell estimated the object to be 6 feet off the ground.

The object was producing a low whistling sound and emitted blue and orange light.

Mr. Blackwell's thoughts were, in his own words, "Oh my God it's an aircraft crashing". He then stood there stunned, watching the object. As it cleared the trees, he realized the object was domed shaped, not an aircraft, and like nothing he had ever witnessed before.



Mr. Blackwell's model of the object

He estimated it to be 10 feet in height and 26 feet in length. The object proceeded in a straight line passing over fences, and touched down 50 feet from a concrete water tank, 1/4 mile from the house.

Mr. Blackwell returned to the bedroom, changed clothes, jumped on his motorbike, and drove towards the site where the object had landed.

On arriving at a closed gate, he alighted from his bike and nervously opened the gate while still observing the object. The object was stationary on the ground, the whistling sound con-

The White-Acres Encounter

tinued and orange and blue lights were slowly revolving.

The lights were 10 feet apart and approximately 7 inches in diameter. The object in the light of the moon was bell-shaped, coloured orange, with a white dome on top.

After approximately 10 minutes, the object started to lift off, and Mr. Blackwell mounted his bike and drove directly towards it. When 50 yards from the object, the whistling noise increased in pitch like a jet engine in reverse. The noise was ear-piercing as the object rose slowly into the air giving off a blast of heat.

As the bike was on a slight slope, its headlight picked up the bottom of the object as it rose. Mr. Blackwell noticed a large circular rim on the bottom, similar to a hovercraft tube. This rim receded in width as the craft rose. Suddenly, the suction reduced in the lift-off as did the high-pitched noise, and stones and cow pads fell from below the craft.

The craft flew in an easterly direction slowly gaining height, and Mr. Blackwell observed it until it disappeared from sight.

On returning to the house the time was 01:50 a.m.

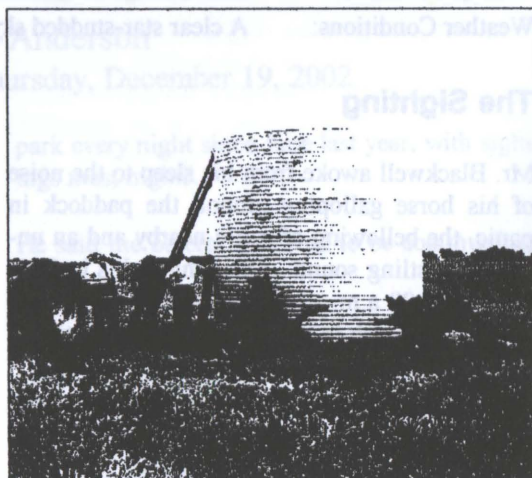
Results of the Investigation

The principal witness was notably shaken by the experience and developed headaches at 11:00 a.m. that morning. Headaches were not a normal thing for the witness. He did feel tired but also had trouble sleeping. No eye trouble had developed.

The physical evidence on the ground consisted of a circular brown ring 14 inches wide around

the circumference, with a diameter of approximately 30 feet. There were six evenly spaced half spokes pointing inward toward the centre of the circle, which had not turned brown. No radiation was evident and soil samples were taken. The magnetic field in the area was normal.

The grass, cape weed and clover, was not burnt, but appeared to have been poisoned, creating the brown effect.



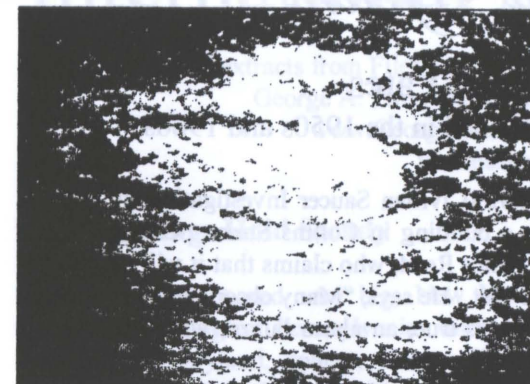
VUFORS investigators inspect the tank

The 10,000 gallon water tank nearby was nearly empty, to the amazement of the witness and the owner. No explanation could be found for this.

The stock on the Property would not go anywhere near the circle. It was even impossible to force them into the paddock where the circle was.

There was a distinct line of rocks and cow pads lying on the ground in an easterly line from the circle. On examining of these, it was found they had been uprooted from another place, probably the centre of the circle.

The White-Acres Encounter



Circular brown ring on the ground

A time discrepancy of approximately 20 minutes was discovered in the witness' statement; not all the details can be produced in this report as in all such cases we must respect the personal feelings and wishes of any witnesses.

The only other witness to be found was young Kelly Postle from the Kilmany General Store,

approximately 4 kilometres away. Miss Postle stated that at 12:12 a.m., the same morning, she saw from her bedroom window, a pink ball of fire moving slowly in the west, just under the Southern Cross.

The sighting has been reported to the R.A.A.F. base at Sale and Flight Lieutenant Philip who handles the U.A.F. reports will investigate.

(P.S. ... on a return visit on 31st October, Mr. Blackwell recalled the object actually hovered over the tank before touching down).

Editors Note: This article first appeared in the June 1981 edition of the Australian Flying Saucer Review (one of the previous names of this Bulletin).

Many Thanks to Mr. Pat Gildea for providing additional photographs, for use in this report.

UFO Wave Predicted

Filer's Files #03 - 2003, George A. Filer, Director, Mutual UFO Network Eastern

Donald A. Johnson, Ph.D., and UFOCAT archivist for the Centre for UFO Studies writes, "Based upon a careful analysis of trends in historical UFO reports in the UFOCAT database, I am making the following prediction. There will be a worldwide UFO wave in the month of March 2003 that will reach its maximum between March 15 and March 25, 2003.

I am reasonably confident that this wave will involve Northern Europe. Another likely region is the Pacific Ocean, including Japan and the Hawaiian Islands, and possibly the Alaskan Aleutian Islands. I wanted to go on the record

now, a full seven weeks before the anticipated peak in UFO activity, before any upswing in reporting starts. I would like people to keep their eyes and ears open.

I am reasonably certain about the timing, if extrapolations from previous peaks can be trusted. The worldwide wave will probably not be centred in North America. A paper outlining my reasons for this prediction will follow.

Thanks to Donald A. Johnson, Ph.D., UFOCAT archivist, Centre for UFO Studies, ufocat@cufos.org

The Early Years

Compiled by Clive Yates

Selected reports from magazines published in the 1950s and 1960s

Melbourne, Victoria - March 12, 1957 *Flying Saucers* (Civilian Saucer Investigation (N.Z.)). A machine for detecting flying saucers is perched atop a building in Collins Street. Called a UFO-scope, it was built by Melbourne electronics engineer Lance Read, who claims that it will give warning of unidentified flying objects to a height of 50,000 feet. He says, "Many observers have reported that saucers generate a powerful magnetic field. If this is true, an alarm buzzer will sound on the UFO-scope each time a saucer passes overhead."

Read's spaceship spotter is simple enough. It consists of a compass, a 9-volt battery, an aluminium chassis and a buzzer. The compass is oriented north. Any magnetic disturbance will spin the needle and trip the buzzer. This is the first such device to be built in Melbourne, although hundreds are now in use by Government agencies in the U.S. The U.S. Government does not publish results of the machine's findings.

Read, a member of the newly formed Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society, says, "Our Collins Street UFO-scope is just a start. We hope to encourage people throughout the state to build the things so that eventually, we'll have hundreds of magnetic watching posts." Within six months, the society will deck the roof of the Collins Street building with radar antennas and a battery of cameras. Society president Peter Norris says, "This as far as we know will be the first fully-equipped saucer watching post in Australia."

Nome, Alaska - February 14, 1960 *The U.F.O. Investigator* (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena). The North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) confirmed reports that UFOs had been sighted over western Alaska. "We don't know what they were," a spokesman said. Two silver tubular objects had flashed in opposite directions over Alaska late Sunday.

An airline employee in Nome, who sighted one of the UFOs at about 04:40 p.m., described it as a silvery tube spouting orange flame from the tail. It moved ENE. No wings were observed. The UFO reportedly curved up and away as it approached Cape Nome "as if it were manned and controlled." According to the Anchorage Daily Times, the second UFO was sighted at Unalakleet moving rapidly NW and leaving contrails.

The Air Force denied unofficial reports that the UFOs had been tracked on radar. "We're trying to find out more about it; we'll make an investigation," a NORAD spokesman said. The Alaskan Air Command brushed off the UFO reports, attributing them to a meteor. C. T. Elway, director of the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, was quoted as concurring with this conclusion.

International Sighting Reports

Selected extracts from Filer's Files #03 - 2003 MUFON Skywatch Investigations

George A. Filer, Director, Mutual UFO Network Eastern

www.GeorgeFiler.com - www.CEWarren.com

Webmaster Chuck Warren

UFO Sightings Hold Steady

Maine, UFO silent and very big; New York, three flying triangles; Pennsylvania, diamond, oval UFOs; Maryland, sphere, strange lights; Virginia, cigar UFO affects car; North Carolina, triangle with video; Georgia, beacon light in sky; Florida, daylight, domed craft seen; Alabama, egg UFO, electrical failure; Minnesota disk changes colours; Iowa, hovering object with lights; Missouri, lights move unbelievably; Kansas, disks photographed; Oklahoma, dark cigar UFO hovering; Colorado, teardrop shaped UFO; California, pilot sees flying triangles; Italian sightings will set new record; Lebanon disks; South Africa, craft followed satellite.

Maine, UFO Silent and Very Big

Holden - The witnesses were leaving a New Years Party and were driving on Route 46 when they noticed two lights in the sky about a mile away that seemed stationary. The witness says, "I kept driving very slowly and trying to see them above the trees, and three miles down the road I spotted a large flying triangle coming toward us a couple hundred feet up."

My girl friend saw it fly over our vehicle without any noise at all. It had green, pink, and yellow flashing lights and flew from east to west. I later talked to someone where I volunteer at the veterans' clinic and her brother had seen it also.

Since, then I have had some strange mental images and missing minutes. I also have a place

on my stomach where the skin is very dry and nothing helps to get rid of it. I have talked to my veterans' counsellor about the incident.

Thanks to BMJ and Peter Davenport, NUFORC.

New York, Three Flying Triangles

Albany - The witnesses report going for a short nighttime stroll at 10:00 p.m., on January 8, 2003, when he noticed a light out of the corner of his eye and looked up to see three flying triangular objects with a number of lights on each corner.

The witness told his friends to look up and tell them, he was not losing his mind. Their mouths dropped as they also saw the three triangles. No one spoke; no one knew what to say or how to explain what they were seeing. Then the objects disappeared out of sight and it was like they had never even been there.

We continued walking in silence not knowing what to say. I never believed in any of this until now!

Thanks to Peter Davenport, NUFORC.

Pennsylvania, Diamond, Oval UFOs

Pittsburgh - The witness was walking to the local Drug store on January 7, 2003, when he looked in the sky and saw a huge diamond shape craft. It was going across the sky extremely fast

International Sighting Reports

at 11:00 p.m. The sighting lasted for a minute, then it was gone

Middlesex Township - I was walking on the Appalachian Trail on January 7, 2003, with my dog around 05:00 p.m., and my dog started to bark. I noticed an extremely bright light where my dog was barking. I ran towards my dog who was about 50 yards away and I noticed an oval shaped object lifting higher into the sky.

By the time I caught up to my dog the oval shaped object was hovering around 100 feet above us. It moved back and forth for a few minutes, then zipped out of sight. I have never seen anything like this in my life.

Thanks to Peter Davenport, NUFORC.

Maryland, Sphere, Strange Lights

Westminster - The witness was walking his two dogs on January 4, 2003, and noticed a bright object in the sky over her neighbour's house, and assumed it was a shooting star at 08:50 p.m. The object was moving from west to east at a steady pace. Then behind this object appeared three additional bright white light objects that would be the size of an egg held at arm's length.

The light from these objects was as if it was revolving. There was no colour, just white light. Then there were two other groups of the objects that appeared out of the western sky and flew east out of my sight. No sound was made. The witness states, "They seemed to be about 1500 feet high, they were close, and I counted fifteen objects, and their flight pattern seemed to be in a straight line."

I live two miles from the Westminster Airport and I'm used to seeing all types of flying craft,

but at 46 years of age, I've never seen anything like this before. I called my husband, who is a police officer for the state of Maryland and he tried to contact the local airport at 09:00 p.m., but it was closed.

We watched the news to see if anyone else reported the lights in the sky, but to no avail.

NUFORC.

Virginia, Cigar UFO Affects Car

Falls Church - The witness reports, "I was going home from work on January 11, 2003, with a few associates and my car just stalled at one of the stop signs." I was surprised as it was a new car. I stepped out of the car to look in the hood and I saw a flash of light reflected from my car.

I looked up and saw this long lighted flying thing, which was there for a few seconds and then disappeared. I did not think much of the sighting, but when it disappeared my car started by itself, without turning the keys in the ignition.

NUFORC.

North Carolina, Triangle With Video

Charlotte - I was coming home from my girlfriend's house around 07:00 p.m., on January 6, 2003. I came up my road (there's a hill on my street) and I saw a triangular formation of three extremely bright, round lights up in the sky. They were about 200 feet up and a mile or so away.

I jumped out of my car, ran in to tell my mother and she ran out and we both stood in our back

International Sighting Reports

yard staring at the lights. They hovered in the sky without moving for about two minutes and the lower "UFO" in the triangle drifted up and to the right towards one of the other "UFO's."

Once it got close, the upper right "UFO" flew off out of sight at incredible speed. The "UFO" on the other side did the same shortly after that. One UFO was left hovering in the sky, with its bright light kind of twinkling.

The single UFO light came on and went off and on for the next hour. It flew random zigzag floating actions in the sky. My father came home later that night and saw it too. He said, "Oh my God, I thought you guys were joking!"

The weird thing is that it was so windy that night, and the entire sky had a sort of pale amber tint to it. Our gate in the back yard kept slamming shut and my Mom told me that earlier in the day she had heard a very loud noise around where the lights were coming from.

Also the pets were acting weird. The objects were not moving at all times, so they were definitely not airplanes. They were close enough to us that if they were helicopters we would have definitely heard them. Plus, any type of aircraft I've ever seen is not capable of disappearing out of sight at the speed these did.

Very spooky, something strange is definitely going on. We have pictures and video.

Thanks to Peter Davenport, NUFORC.

Georgia, Beacon Light In Sky

MUFONGA's Olivia Newton of Lilburn reported that a family member living in Dekalb County had reported a spectacular light observed on December 4, at about 10:15 p.m.

The witness described an extremely brilliant white light travelling horizontally at about 20 degrees off of the horizon. It was completely silent, and was the size of a baseball at arm's length.

This witness is particularly observant and reliable; a retired law enforcement official of the State Game and Fish Commission.

Lagrange - On January 4, 2003, MUFONGA's reliable source was outside for about two minutes at 07:00 p.m., and observed another unusual "beacon" type of light in the sky. Rather than being stationary, it was moving east, and was blinking off and on at about ten-second intervals.

She described it as a sort of "slow-glow" type of illumination. The light would come on slowly, then fade out slowly at ten-second intervals. Again, this witness was raised in an aviation family and indicates that what she has been observing is unlike any normal aircraft lights with which she is familiar.

Past interaction with this source has revealed that she is VERY objective.

MUFON's Tom Sheets says, "I was standing with John Thompson next to a field in the boonies near Lagrange a few weeks before our Leonids Skywatch. We were comparing the appearance of distant aircraft landing lights when a REAL MONSTER rock slid in and burned up right overhead.

Truly awesome, nothing during all of our Leonids activities even compared. As to the 5 Jan Lagrange "slow-glow" lights, I can recall nothing similar in my sky watching, which includes living and working around Hartsfield Airport for many years. We have to consider

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several factors that might influence any night observations of lights or meteors ... the atmospheric conditions both low and high, humidity, haze, pollution, the eyesight of the witness etc.

At any rate, it's difficult to make any firm determination on unusual events occurring in darkness, far away, silent, and oft times happening very quick."

Thanks to Tom Sheets, Georgia Director of MUFON

Florida, Daylight, Domed Craft Seen

Winter Springs - While standing in my backyard on January 11, 2003, with a friend, I spotted a bright object coming from the southwest at 12:10 p.m. It was very high up and moving in a slow, straight line and faded into the east. I asked my friend to have a look and we watched the object for 5 minutes.

With binoculars, the object was somewhat flat on the bottom and domed on top. Not like pictures of flying saucers that I've seen. The top was domed like half of a circle. The object seemed compact in shape, not long and stretched out like an airplane.

The object was a very strange shade of green, kind of lime coloured, and never changed its brightness. It was almost as if the brightness was a light and not necessarily the colour of the object. It was VERY bright.

Alabama, Egg UFO, Electrical Failure

Moundville - Two egg shaped objects with lights were observed moving in a 'Z' pattern on January 6, 2003, by several witnesses. The witness stated, "The batteries and lights on our ve-

hicle stopped when two egg shaped objects approached us. We were in the Talladega National Forest when two egg shaped objects about the size of the tops of trees were observed.

When the lights flashed it illuminated the sky and the whole area. The lights were red, yellow, and blue. They moved left and right and up and down sort of in a Z shape. When we approached the lights, the battery needle stopped in our vehicle.

One object came about 50 yards from our vehicle, then it immediately left. This object was spotted off and on for over an hour."

Minnesota Disk Changes Colours

Winnebago - At about 08:30 a.m., on January 2, 2003, my husband noted a bright light in the sky and told my 15 year old foster son and I, "Come and look at the UFO."

Not really believing him, we looked thinking he was foolish. We saw at first a bright light and then as we watched, it began to change colours in a circler motion. We saw a disk shape craft with lights that circled around the craft changing colours from white, to red, green, and blue.

It hovered for the longest time and then began to come a little closer. I got the binoculars and looked and I could see it was in a disk shape or like what you would see in the television shows. The coolest part was that we were able to see what appeared to be windows all along the top half of the craft.

The UFO stayed around for an hour and a half. My 21 year old daughter and I saw it again the next night.

Thanks to Peter Davenport, NUFORC.

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Iowa, Hovering Object With Lights

Aurelia - Julie W. reports, "I was driving home from work at 08:10 p.m., on January 2, 2003, and I noticed a bright object in the northeast sky, and noticed that there were red, green and white lights on the object that was not moving.

It was at that time that I noticed another hovering object exactly like the other one to the southeast. Then I noticed an airplane above the object on my left, and that made it very evident that what I was watching was just sitting there.

I got within a half mile from Aurelia, and tried to call my husband but the phone was busy. When I got home I told him what I had seen and that I had tried to call. He said he hadn't been on the phone. Also, my computer was really having problems. My connection is through a satellite.

I had a similar experience several years ago in NW Iowa, only there were many more UFOs, and my children and I witnessed one only a couple of hundred feet away."

Thanks to John Hoppe, Director UFOWisconsin, <http://www.ufowisconsin.com>

Missouri, Lights Move Unbelievably

Blue Springs - The witness reports, "My girlfriend and I observed a bright flashing light in the sky on January 1, 2003, with the colours changing from white to red to green in that sequence."

The object hovered in one spot for 30 seconds and then began to move in random directions. While moving, the object would change its rate of speed constantly and then stopped suddenly.

It was higher than any helicopter could fly and made sharp movements that an airplane could not. It also moved in a small circular motion followed by a slightly larger circle.

Another object had the same light pattern on it and moved in the same formations as the original almost as if the two were communicating. I stopped watching at 06:30 a.m. I hadn't had anything to drink.

Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Kansas, Disks Photographed

Wichita - Matt Hitt phoned to tell me he was at the local mall on January 8, 2003, when he noticed a disk shaped craft flying over the area. He went into the local drug store and purchased a camera and film and started photographing at 05:20 p.m.

His taking photos of the sky caused a crowd to form and look at the UFOs flying overhead. An Air Force Captain dressed in uniform was amazed to see the disks. He pointed and said, "That's not a plane!" He claimed he was a pilot and had never seen UFOs or anything like that.

There were heavy contrails high in the sky and the UFOs were flying around below the contrails. Matt called me immediately after the sighting and seemed quite excited.

Thanks to Matt Hitt.

Oklahoma, Dark Cigar UFO Hovering

Enid To Tulsa - The witness was driving back from Enid on January 2, 2003, when he saw a silver/black cigar like object far away past the hills at 04:30 p.m. It rocked slowly back and

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forth like a leaf falling, but not falling. After two minutes it was gone, leaving no trail, no fast bang, or light.

Colorado, Teardrop Shaped UFO

Payton - The witness reports seeing an unidentified object that looked like a flying teardrop and was circling around the sky at 07:37 p.m., for about five minutes on January 1, 2003. The craft flew back and fourth in a straight line.

The craft was metallic silver and had one florescent light. There were planes in the area, but the lights on these planes blinked, while this did not blink and moved at a comparatively slow pace.

Thanks to Peter Davenport, NUFORC.

California, Pilot Sees Flying Triangles

San Jose - Near dusk at 05:20 p.m., a private pilot saw two black, triangles hovering in a very slow flight pattern on January 1, 2003. The sky was still bright blue and these triangles did not fly like our planes or birds.

The witness said, "I watched for ten minutes as they headed from the east to the west and then slowly, back toward the west again." They moved progressively closer together, and appeared to be about 45,000 feet altitude. Several jumbo jets passed underneath at 15-20 thousand feet during my observation.

The flying triangles were clearly not flying like the planes, nor did they look anything like any kinds of planes I have ever seen. I am a private pilot and quite familiar with the flight patterns in this area. I have also observed many birds of prey such as hawks and eagles and these craft were not like any bird.

This is the first time I have ever observed anything like this. I have always been extremely sceptical about UFO's and have not really thought they were anything but mistaken identities. However, these objects were clearly some kind of object that I could not identify.

Spring Valley - My family and I were sitting in the back yard about twenty-five minutes after midnight right after the New Year's started. We were all talking, when I saw a bright orange reddish light coming from the north; I told every one, "Do you guys see that?" It was very bright and flying very slow.

When it got closer, the lights started to dim and then they would get bright again, then it started to go west very slow almost to a stop. It started to drop something we could not figure out what it was. Then it started to go west and we could see spinning lights, and finally the light turned off.

Burbank - My wife and I are musicians. We were retiring home on January 1, 2003, and were unloading our equipment. I had asked my son (age 15) and his friend to help me unload our truck. I glanced to look up for Orion and immediately noticed six moving stars that I didn't recognize.

They were orangish yellow in colour and in a pattern like thin #4. I called to my son, his friend and my wife. The craft was travelling in northwest and very high (could've been 100-200 miles). We all noticed that they began to turn southwest. The turn was abrupt and they formed another pattern similar to the Big Dipper.

They continued to extend starting to form a single line and then one by one seemed to shoot straight up out of sight. I did also notice that

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one or two seemed to have smaller lights shooting out from them before they disappeared.

Burbank - On New Year's Eve my family went outside to bang some pots and pans and shoot off our party poppers at our friend's home. During the celebration I looked up at a very clear sky and noticed two orange/red orbs glowing and moving very slow across the sky.

One was in front of the other. The orbs were travelling west and sparks or fire of some sort, like a sparkler trailed off from the fireball. The shapes took a turn and started heading north and they both burned out within five seconds of each other.

My sister and I had seen some five weeks ago heading east across the sky.

Thanks to Peter Davenport, NUFORC.

Italian Sightings Will Set New Record

Italian UFO Newsflash 381 - The Italian Centre for UFO Studies (Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici, CISU) reports, "The drop in reports in the month of December notwithstanding, 2002 went out as a record-setting year, for sightings and reports of UFO phenomena in Italy."

As of this writing, in fact, the number of cases histories gathered and filed by the Italian Centre for UFO Studies (CISU) totals 724 for last year, compared with the 796 which made the preceding 2001 one of the richest periods of the last 24 years.

It is expected that in the coming months - as usual - the total of cases for 2002 will grow to surpass that of 2001, which at this point a year

ago saw "only" 630 cases. This result is, in part, due to the always-increasing efficiency of the CISU telematic working group on the Italian caselog, which by now is fully operational and manages to systematically monitor the reports gathered from every available source.

The month-by-month distribution of Italian sightings for 2002 was less spotty than that for 2001, which was much more centred on a summer flap. Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna turned out to be the richest regions for reports, followed by Veneto and Tuscany; and the usual prevalence of Northern Italy was confirmed, with 56% of the observations. More detailed information is on the CISU Website at www.cisu.org

Thanks to Giorgio Abraini

Lebanon Disks

Beirut - On January 3, 2003, two unidentified objects were seen over Beirut at 08:23 p.m. Each craft was different. One was saucer shaped and the other was like an oval and there was much light surrounding each of them. The craft were visible for fifteen minutes.

Thanks to Peter Davenport, NUFORC.

South Africa, Craft Followed Satellite

Port Elizabeth - From southwesterly direction towards the southeasterly direction crossing the path of the satellite four times and then vanished on January 1, 2003, a stream of exhaust fumes could be seen behind the craft (NUFORC Note: Witness describes self as having significant technical experience. PD).

The Strangers Among Us

By John E. Schroeder

The UFO Enigma, October 2002

UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, Inc., P.O. Box 31544, St. Louis, MO 63131

This narrative deals with UFPs, not UFOs. It interprets data arrived at May 16, 1970 in interviews with five people who saw Unidentified Friendly Persons. It offers no verifiable link to flying objects of any kind. It does, however, set a high strangeness level and poses mysteries, which remain unresolved after 16 years. At the request of two primary witnesses, all names have been changed and work titles substituted for them.

Before 08:00 a.m. on a bright Spring Saturday, I was awakened by a phone call from Dorothy Simpson, a member of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, desk clerk at a high-rise motel at the intersection of Highway 40 and Grand Avenue in mid-city St. Louis. "Can you come to the motel right away?" she asked almost breathless.

"It's crazy! I don't know whether it has anything to do with UFOs or not, but I've got to tell somebody! I called you because you investigate Parapsychological cases. I don't know if this fits; but it is strange." When Dorothy drew the last word to twice its usual length, she captured my curiosity.

"I'll be there as soon as possible," I replied and arrived at exactly 8:00 a.m.

Dorothy, the Night Clerk, and the Night Manager had stayed after their usual quitting time to tell me the story. The facts have been drawn from interviews with them and subsequent interviews with the Bell Hop, an Hispanic man in his mid-thirties; the Restaurant Hostess, in her early

thirties; and the Waitress in her late teens. Their stories intermeshed and agreed on all the basic data except for an inch or two differences in estimation of heights and slight discrepancies in skin tones of the Unidentified Friendly Persons. (Having worked as quick sketch artist in a couple of police cases, I expected some discrepancy on height. Each witness gauged the UFP's heights from his own eye-level, which naturally varied from that of other witnesses. Colour tones could have fluctuated under the bright lobby lights in transition to the more dimly lighted dining room.)

The differences of interpretation were so slight as to be negligible. If all five interviews had been totally consistent, I would have suspected collusion. Frankly, each witness spoke so forthrightly and answered my probing questions so directly with eye-contact intact, that I believed their accounts. The fact that no UFO links could be established then or later has not diminished my trust in the accuracy of their mutual report.

The four strangers arrived unnoticed soon after the night crew had come on duty at the motel but before the late restaurant shift left, about 10:30 p.m., Friday, May 15, 1970. The Night Clerk, a short woman, was busy at the high reception desk facing the lobby entrance. She might have missed their entrance through the glass doors because she was checking registrations for billing accuracy.

The Night Manager, a six-foot gentleman in his early sixties, was in his adjoining office. The Bell Hop was seated in a chair at an angle,

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which obscured his view of the front door. A whistling sigh caused the Night Clerk to stand on a one-step stool to look over the desk top.

She saw four tiny people before her. None was as tall as the desk, which was four feet above floor level. "Dwarfs," she thought; but revised that quickly because their bodies, though tiny, were beautifully proportioned. "Midgets," she guessed, but revised that too because their features looked nothing like any midgets she had ever seen.

They were obviously a family - a man whose black hair and unlined face made him look youthful - his wife with long blond hair - and two children (one boy and one girl) slightly shorter than the parents.

If the man was four feet, the woman was three feet ten inches and the children close to three feet two inches. The man and the boy both had on dark suits, well tailored and expensive looking. The mother and daughter had twin dresses in pastel peach. Except for the differences in dress, which accented apparent sex roles, they could have been cast from the same mould. "I never have seen four people in anyone family look so similar. Do you think they could have been clones?" she asked.

In the light of the rest of the story, the question may have been perceptive, but I did not commit myself.

The Night Clerk continued, "And their hair! The man's and boy's shiny black and the woman's and girl's bright blonde; but none showed mid-tones or highlights. Dynel - just like Dynel wigs, every one of them; straight and long with a stiff, sharply trimmed look."

"I asked, 'May I help you?'"

The man replied in a voice, which was close to falsetto, "Do you have a room to stay? Do you have a room to stay?"

Assured that several rooms were available, the man asked the cost. Told the price, he seemed confused. He looked at his wife as if for advice, but she stared back unmoved. Finally, he took a large roll of currency from his pocket, and - holding his forearm high - laid it on the desk.

Naturally, when the Night Clerk saw that many of the bills were of large denominations and all crisp, neat and new, she grew suspicious of counterfeits. But the paper money she took passed all her standard tests for bogus bills.

The tiny coloured threads were in the paper. The money felt right. The ink did not smudge beneath thumb pressure; and the scrollwork etching was clearly defined. She took two twenties and returned the roll of thousands of dollars with the man's change.

The Night Clerk knew that people so small could not fill out the reservation form at desk level, so she decided to complete it for them. She asked the man, "What is your name?"

When he stepped forward to answer, "A. Bell", she got a close look at his face and compared it with those of this family. Amazing! Wide at eye level, their face thinned abruptly to their chins. Their eyes were large, dark and slightly slanted like those of Orientals. Their noses had practically no bridges and two slits for nostrils; and their mouths were tiny and lipless - no wider than their nostrils. All looked uniformly pale. (Colour descriptions varied from pearl to pale pink to light grey.) These were definitely not midgets. Dorothy mused mentally on whether they were human or not.

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She kept her composure. "And where are you from?"

The man immediately lifted his right arm straight up and pointed skyward with a slight circling motion, "We came from up there ... up there." His wife quickly pulled his arm down and - as if in ventriloquist's tenor - answered, "From Hammond, Indiana." She later also gave a street address. The man, though, reached for the pen and clipboard to sign the registration card. He grasped the pen with two fingers and thumb very awkwardly and - holding the pen at right angles to the card - signed slowly and methodically like a child in primary school.

"And where may we eat?" the woman asked with a tone that made her sound the more dominant of the sexes.

"The Bell Hop will put your luggage by his station for safety," the Night Clerk told her. "The restaurant is directly behind you. They are still serving."

While the Bell Hop was getting their three overnight bags (normal size for small overnight cases, but large for these diminutive folks), the Night Clerk called the Night Manager who came out to get a good look at the odd strangers from "way up there." He concurred in their description. He also suggested that the Night Clerk run a long distance credit check on them even though they had paid in cash. His suspicions were verified. Both the name and address were false.

Meanwhile the Bell Hop had gone to the parking lot to find any Indiana licensed car. There was none; and the city allowed no street parking in that congested area.

The Hostess met the unforgettable family at the restaurant entrance. She directed them to a heavy oak table in the centre of the dining area. Without asking, she helped the tiny children into booster chairs. The adults' chins barely reached the tabletop. Even the menus seemed to dwarf the father and mother. The woman read silently; the man aloud, and he asked questions - strange questions.

"Milk," he mused. "Is that from a cow?"

The Waitress at their side answered affirmatively.

"See, children, see." The man seemed ecstatic that he remembered correctly. "Milk is from a cow. Milk is from a cow."

He seemed to know nothing else about American cuisine. He asked the Waitress questions about each item; its size, was it easy to chew, could it be cut very small?

"He has to ask," the Waitress thought. "Their mouths are so small, practically nothing but liquids will go in; and I don't see any teeth either." She decided to give them drinking straws.

Determining that corn and peas grow on a farm and were tiny pieces, the mother ordered them with milk for herself and the two children. The father insisted on trying a small steak with his peas and water.

All of them ate alike and not at all as you would expect humans to eat. Each carefully picked up a single pea with his knife and inhaled it into the tiny pursed mouths. They did not seem to chew. The only noise was a soft sucking sound. They did not converse while eating. They made no comment on the quality or flavour of the

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food; not even when the father failed to get even the tiniest piece of steak into his oral slit.

As if by unseen signal or telepathy, they stopped eating and stood on the carpet. The man handed the waitress a twenty dollar bill, "Enough?"

She explained that she would bring his change; but when she had returned from the cashier, the group had gone. "Big tippers for little people; but I had a feeling they didn't know any better: the Waitress shrugged. "I'd sure like to know who they really were and where they came from. I'm from Missouri, and they weren't from around here."

The Bell Hop continued the narration. When they approached his station, he lifted their three bags easily and invited them to follow him to the elevator. At first they hung back, apparently afraid to enter the monster with the metal jaws. The Bell Hop explained that it would lift them to their room on an upper floor. They entered and huddled stiffly, tense as the elevator rose.

The Bell Hop led them to their room, unlocked the door, turned on the softly illuminated desk lamp and handed the tiny man the key. To earn a big tip, the Bell Hop placed the three overnight bags on folding stands and, demonstrating how the television worked, turned on the big screen set.

The small man leaped across the bed to shut it off, screaming loudly, "I told you not. It will hurt the children's eyes. It will hurt the children's eyes!"

The guest seemed so upset and yelled so angrily that the Bell Hop backed out of the room and closed the door without extending his hand for the tip.

"I was just doing my job," he explained to the motel staff gathered at the desk to compare stories of the strange family. They decided that the little people deserved watching.

"They'll have to come out the front door tomorrow morning, since all other entrances have security alarms," the Manager stated.

"So," the Bell Hop concluded, we'll follow them when they go out; and we'll find out all about them that we can.

The Night Crew watched and waited until past quitting time. At 07:30 a.m. they still had not come down. The Bell Hop, dispatched to the strange family's room found the door open, the room empty and the key on the desk. The TV was unplugged. No one knew how the strangers had left unobserved because the door alarms, checked and rechecked, were operative.



John E. Schroeder, Past-President of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, Inc. and Past-Chairman of its Board of Directors, MUFON State Section Director for St. Louis County and Research Specialist was unable to establish any UFO reports for that night. All the witnesses agreed, however, that - except for their hair - the odd family members looked very much like the space creatures depicted in the Barney and Betty Hill book, "Interrupted Journey" by Raymond Fowler. Was there collusion between the witnesses? They did consult Saturday morning when three of the five evaluated the facts, but the Hostess and Waitress told their stories separately with practically no descriptive differences. Field Investigator Schroeder doubts collusion and is convinced by the consistent character of the witnesses that no hoax was perpetrated.

Victorian Sighting Reports

Received By VUFORS

Please report your sighting to VUFORS via the following means.

E-mail: vufors@ozemail.com.au

Phone: (03) 9506 7080

Web: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~vufors> interactively, or print an Adobe PDF form.

Postal: VUFORS, PO Box 1043, Moorabbin, Vic. 3189, Australia.

Golden Bay, NZ January 1999, 11:00 p.m.

The observer reported a sighting he made whilst visiting New Zealand with a second observer.

It was a lovely still, dry, warm, clear night. The observers were outside on the bank of a small river running through trees, bush, and farmland, 50 km from the nearest city.

Silently, a large round, clear light, moved slowly, but erratically, with an almost zigzag movement, from the south directly overhead to the north, at an estimated altitude of 10 thousand feet.

Excitedly, they watching the activities of the large bright light for about two minutes, when it suddenly disappeared.

Reids Lookout, The Grampians, Vic. 27th September 2002, 11:00 p.m.

On a very cold night, with light cloud cover, and a mild breeze, the reporting observer, a mother,

with her two pre-teenage children, was located at Reids Lookout. Suddenly, a bright flash of orange light was seen from the side.

Turning toward the light, the excited observer found herself in a state of absolute disbelief, when confronted by a very bright orange saucer-shaped object with a dome on top, silently hovering over a nearby hill.

The relative size of the object was at least three moon diameters and it was much brighter than three full moons. As soon as she realised what she was looking at might be, it quickly faded from view, or moved away very rapidly. The estimated sighting time was one second!

There were also several small white hovering lights seen, and aeroplanes flying around.

Reids Lookout, The Grampians, Vic. 07th October 2002, 08:30 p.m.

The reporting observer and a second observer were parked in Reids Lookout car park with the car facing in a westerly direction. There was a mild breeze and patchy cloud cover ranging from light to dense, obscuring the night sky.

Initially, the reporting observer was seated in her car; movement detected through the passenger side window drew her attention to a yellow-white fuzzy ball of light in the southwest, moving very slowly southeastward, behind a cluster of small to medium sized trees.

The observer alighted from her vehicle and stationed herself at its rear to obtain a better view of the activity. In terms of relative size, the light

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was about 3 mm at arm's length and was initially seen at an elevation of about 35 degrees above the horizon.

Once clear of the foliage, the light appeared as an orange disc with a clearly defined perimeter and no flares of light. It continued to move slowly away from the observer until it attained a 45 degree elevation in the south. The sighting duration was estimated to be about 4 to 5 minutes and no unusual sound was heard.

Reids Lookout, The Grampians, Vic. 29th October 2002, 10:30 p.m.

The reporting observer and a second observed the activities of several unusual lights from Reids Lookout while looking toward the northwest and the lights of the city of Horsham. The weather was fine and dry with a mild breeze and heavy cloud.

Movement of a number of bright golden lights, which appeared to be rising from the Horsham city lights, first caught the attention of the observer. Further observation of the lights with binoculars revealed that they were also exhibiting lateral movement above the city lights.

There were six lights observed with the naked eye and binoculars. Some of the lights appeared to be circular, and others elongated. Their colours ranged from golden-yellow to golden-orange. They occasionally lowered their light intensity to a point where they could not be seen with the naked eye, but could still just be seen with binoculars.

The relative sizes of the lights ranged from about one to two millimetres at arm's length, and occasionally, some appeared to be point light sources.

One of the lights was larger than the others and it usually remained stationary. The others moved to the right or left of the largest one, and each other, passing either behind or in front of the others.

Observations of the activities of the lights occurred for approximately two hours and the observer indicated that, while she originally thought that the lights were operating over Horsham, it is difficult to judge distances at night. They could be much closer, while still appearing to operate over Horsham.

Ballarat, Vic. 07th December 2002, 11:20 p.m.

The observer reports his sighting, seen from his own backyard.

When he first saw brilliant white flashes of light every 7 to 9 seconds, approaching him from the west, he assumed it was a passenger jet coming from Adelaide or Perth, and thus assumed it was at about 30,000 feet.

Although its estimated speed seemed to be that of a passenger jet at about the same altitude, he realised that the object carrying the flashing light could not be a jet as there were no red and green wing-tip lights.

Immediately it was overhead, having completed four brilliant flashes since first sighted, it made a 90 degree turn to the south. The flashing light then became faint for two more flashes and the object ceased flashing.

Approximately 10 minutes later, it reappeared directly over head moving northward, and he could see two lights - the main flash, and a split-second later, a duller flasher which appeared like a naked light bulb with a dark centre.

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He became a little alarmed as he had the impression that the object was much lower than he had first thought. The "light bulb" flash seemed to be reflecting off the sides of the object, and it seemed very close.

After about 4 brilliant flashes, the flashes went faint again, so he ran inside to get his binoculars. When he returned, 45 seconds later, he was not able to immediately locate the flying object.

Before he went inside, he again located the flashing object and noticed that the flashes were becoming faint again.

He feels that brilliant flashing was occurring while the object was moving at normal speed, and faint or dull flashing preceded it stopping or disappearing.

Reids Lookout, The Grampians, Vic. 20th December 2002, 09:00 p.m.

The reporting observer and a second observer, were located in the car park of Reids Lookout. There was distant smoke haze due to bushfires in the Little Desert, and the weather was fine and warm with no wind.

Intense coloured pulses and flares of light, and the erratic movements of the lights first caught the attention of the observer. About 14 objects appeared to be moving between the north and northwest, above the city lights of Horsham.

There were dark red, white, and golden-yellow circular objects. A cream and slightly green object in the shape of an elongated bar of light, with hemispherical ends, flashed on for intervals of 1 to 2 seconds.

White objects emitted very intense periodic pulses of white light, sometimes appearing to have a red flare at the core of the pulse.

Some yellow objects remained stationary for most of the night and broke formation occasionally. Other yellow objects and red objects moved east and west above the city lights of Horsham.

Single white objects moved in erratic paths and one seemed to move toward the observer's viewing position while emitting sporadic pulses of intense white light.

On several occasions, small red objects and golden-yellow objects gathered into clusters of two or three, stopped moving, and then continued their apparent patrol back and forth across the skyline.

Some objects were seen to disappear behind the "Black Range", about 35 km as the crow flies, from Reids Lookout.

Many objects remained visible for most of the night; some would blink off or on, while others lowered their light intensity until they were no longer visible to the naked eye, but could still be detected with a telescope or binoculars.

The observer monitored the activities of the objects for an extended period of 4 hours and indicated that she was pleased to see that the objects were present once again, and that she had not wasted her time.

Ballarat, Vic. 21st December 2002, 11:25 p.m.

The observer reports his sighting, as he recalls it. Both he and his wife observed the activities of the object from their backyard. The moon

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was full that night and rising directly behind them.

The night was fine and warm, with a mild breeze and light cloud cover. His attention was captured by a yellow light about the relative size of the largest star, silently moving about twice the relative speed of a satellite, from the northwest at a 50 degree elevation above the horizon.

This motion continued in a straight line for the first 15 seconds. It then slowed, accelerated, and wobbled, changing between the three states several times, before proceeding in an arc across the sky where it was last seen at an elevation of 30 degrees, entering cloud in the south, after a total elapsed time of 70 seconds.

It was not possible to give a meaningful estimate of the distance to the object, although it had to be at least as high as the clouds when last seen. Fifteen minutes after the sighting, an aircraft passed low in the southern sky, heading east.

Ballarat, Vic. 22nd December 2002, 12:20 a.m.

The observer reports his sighting, seen from his own backyard.

The night was fine and warm, with a mild breeze and light cloud cover. His attention was caught by a moving flashing white light, from a yellow object about the relative size of the largest star. The flash rate was about one per second.

It was moving silently, in a straight line, without red and green wing-tip lights, a little faster than a passenger jet, from an 80 degree elevation above the horizon, in the west-southwest, to a 70 degree elevation in the west.

The distance to the object could not readily be estimated and lack of coloured wing-tip lights indicated that it was not a conventional aircraft. After 15 seconds of flight, the object ceased flashing and was no longer visible.

Seaford, Vic. 25th December 2002, 11:50 p.m.

The observer was taking a casual walk in his garden, and while observing his weather vane and anemometer, noticed three medium star luminescence white objects in an equilateral triangle formation, moving silently from the west at an elevation of 75 degrees above the horizon.

As they moved northward at what was perceived to be satellite height, they remained in formation. A circle encompassing the triangle of objects would have had a relative diameter of about four moon diameters.

The triangular triplet moved steadily northward, toward the northwest, and after 20 seconds, was lost from sight. He considered this to be an amazing sighting.

While it had occurred to him that he might have been observing a high-flying balloon triplet, this was discounted, as the sun would not have been able to illuminate it.

He also indicated that, while he was aware of single satellites in orbit, he was not aware of any triangular satellite triplets in orbit.

North Croydon, Vic. 01st January 2003, 12:15 - 02:35 a.m.

The reporting observer was involved in two clear weather sightings, the first of 4 to 5 minute du-

Victorian Sighting Reports

ration had two observers, and the second, a single observer 5 to 7 minute sighting. The report, received via the interactive VUFORS Web reporting facility, follows.

"We were outside looking for fireworks in our neighbourhood, being New Years Eve. We saw an orange light in the sky approaching from the north at approx 12:15 a.m. It headed towards the south-southwest, and we watched it for approximately 4 minutes, until it disappeared behind trees and houses.

"My partner had gone to bed, and I went outside for a cigarette at approximately 02:30 a.m. I saw another light, which looked exactly the same as the first one, and behind it followed another two lights, the same shape and colour, in what I can only describe as a triangle type formation. I watched the three lights head in the same direction for approximately 5 minutes. I lost sight of the first one behind the houses, and eventually the other two became so faint that they disappeared.

"I don't have any other information, but there was no sound, and the pace at which these lights moved remained constant. I can only describe the size compared to Saturn in the night sky at the moment, approximately 2 to 3 times the size. This was the most bizarre thing I have ever seen, and would be very interested to hear if anyone else saw this. I hope this is of interest. Thank you."

Are You A Financial Member?

If you have a close look at the address label on the back cover of your Bulletin, you will see at the top of the label, something that looks like this: "09/2002 V05 F". The month "09" and the year "2002" indicates that this member is not financial – oops its me! Phew – this is an old address label – I have renewed my membership. Do you know that you can renew for more than one year? Some of our more intelligent members have renewed their memberships for five years ☺

Kilsyth, Vic. 10th January 2003, 04:26 p.m.

Upon arriving home from work on a lovely sunny day, the observer noticed in the south-western sky, a jet making a long trail from east to west over Melbourne.

At that time, her husband phoned to inform her that a second jet was moving westward, very high and fast in the sky, on the northern side, making another long trail.

She raced inside, grabbed her digital camera, and photographed both trails. When she turned to the south, she noticed and felt something peculiar happening, so she took another photograph of the trail. She did not know why - she just did it.

A month earlier, she had noticed something she could not identify, in the sky, shortly before jets began making trails. This time she photographed an elliptical object, smaller than the size of a five cent coin at arm's length, in the southwestern sky, at about 45 degrees above the horizon.

Upon viewing the digital image, she could see near the edge of the jet trail, a white reflective object, which had produced no audible signature during the sighting.

Queensland Sighting Reports

UFO ENCOUNTER 208, October-November 2002

Cairns Monday 09/09/02, 10:00 p.m.

A man reported 3 objects in the southwest sky, approximately 10 km distance from him, and about 10 to 15 thousand feet high over the lake Norris area. The three lights converged into one line of travel and continued in this pattern for 5 minutes. They then took off in different directions at a speed no faster than a plane.

The objects made no noise. There were seven witnesses to this incident. The caller also rang the Cairns Port Authority and was told that others had reported the sighting too.

Coorparoo, Brisbane Saturday 14/09/02, 09:00 - 09:30 p.m.

A woman was sitting outside a restaurant on a hillside on Cavendish Rd. She was looking towards the city when she observed a rectangular shaped green object seemingly "drop out of the sky." It came directly down to ground and went below her vision so she no longer saw it.

She described it as neon green and glowing with no tail or sparks coming from it. She described it as travelling about the speed of a skydiver jumping from a plane.

Kempsey Sunday 29/09/02

The caller reported seeing a red mushroom shaped object hovering over trees on his property the last few nights. The first time he saw it he thought it was a burning log, until he saw it

move. He described it as being approximately 15 feet long and bigger and lower than stars.

He has reported it to the police 6 times and they have come out to his property to take a look but could not find anything. His brother and the girl in the local supermarket have seen the object in the area too. He rang the Williamstown Air Base in Newcastle but they didn't want to know about it.

Shailer Park Thursday 03/10/02, 09:25 p.m.

A 14 year old youth reported seeing an orange light moving directly overhead to the southwest. It was at it's brightest when it was first observed but dimmed after that, brightening several times during the sighting. The youth's mother and two friends observed the object as well. The mother described it as being like three balls together and evenly lit up.

Rosedale South Monday 14/10/02, 11:30 p.m.

A woman walked to the local shop to buy a packet of cigarettes. She saw a big light coming in towards the city area and then it stopped. She then noticed 2 other orange glowing lights travel overhead taking approximately 2 minutes to do so. The objects were a bit brighter than a star and travelling in a straight line. One of the objects seemed to occasionally wobble.

She stated she had seen satellites, and these were not satellites. By this time her son had joined her and they also spotted 3 other objects in the

Queensland Sighting Reports

sky that were moving in very small circles. She telephoned her mother, a neighbour and others, to look at the objects and they all reported seeing them. The woman has seen unusual objects before.

About twenty years ago she was with her father in Newcastle when they saw an airplane surrounded by 7 cigar-shaped objects. This incident was later reported on the news. On another occasion, 13 years ago, in Coffs Harbour, she was coming home from work at 02:30 a.m. when she saw a massive big light burst out of the ocean and fly straight up into the sky with a burst of noise.

Dalby

Tuesday 15/10/02, 07:30 p.m.

A woman reported seeing a white shiny light travelling east to west. When she first observed it, it was low near the horizon. She only saw it for 2 seconds before it disappeared in a flash like "warp drive" on Star Trek. She stated that it would have passed over the range as she observed it from Dalby looking towards Toowoomba. It covered a lot of sky.

This was not her first sighting. A few years ago she saw a red light in the back yard of her home. It was an inverted triangular shape grey object like a pyramid. It was large enough to block out the house behind it and as it did so it hovered about 3 feet from the ground and about 6 feet away from her.

She raced inside to get her husband who returned with her to see the object. She described her dogs as going "mental". The whole experience unnerved her and she didn't go out after this for quite some time.

Manly

Tuesday 15/10/02, 07:50 p.m.

A man reported seeing a flashing light to the south moving north. It changed direction moving northwest and then changed again to the west maintaining the same speed throughout. The flash rate was about 2 to 3 times/sec and white, but seemed to flash a red colour now and then.

No sound and moving much faster than a plane. The duration of the sighting was 2 to 3 minutes and it seemed to be very high up. The object was lost to sight behind the roofs of nearby houses. He also observed it with binoculars but saw no additional details.

Rochedale

Tuesday 15/10/02, 01:00 a.m.

The witness from the previous evening phoned back and reported seeing the same orange coloured objects in the sky again. She lined up the objects with something stable so she could see their motion. One disappeared and another appeared. One was about 8 km away to the north then moved SW. When she rang she had been watching them for 1 hour.

Fernvale

Tuesday 22/10/02, 08:00 p.m.

A man reported the sighting of an unusual object, just south of Fernvale near Pine Mountain, west of Brisbane. He saw a dark shadow to his east about 400 m away at treetop level, which moved to the west. It passed over him and his vehicle at about 50 feet, stopped to his left and displayed six bright lights on its underside arranged in a regular pattern.

Queensland Sighting Reports

He stopped his vehicle to observe more closely, and another red vehicle also stopped behind him. An even brighter light then shone out from the front of the object brightly illuminating the ground beneath it. In the reflected glow the man then saw a huge box shaped object about 200 feet by 100 feet by 30 feet in size.

The object then dimmed again, veered left and shot off to the west. Less than a minute after the object's departure two jets passed.

Northern NSW

Wednesday 18/09/02, 06:30 p.m.

On Wednesday at dusk 06:30 p.m. at Main Arm, west of Brunswick Heads, north-eastern NSW, myself and two friends observed a UFO travelling north from the south along the same route that the airlines take as they descend towards Coolangatta airport. However it was at twice their height above ground and not descending.

At first I thought it was an aircraft with its landing lights on but quickly noticed that there were none of the other lights associated with an aircraft and of course aircraft landing lights can not be observed from behind the aircraft and this bright white light remained the same from the different aspects that we viewed it from as it travelled across the sky.

I grabbed my 10x40 Leitz binoculars that were in the car beside me and observed it closely as it travelled overhead and had time to call my friends from inside their house who were also able to watch it pass overhead with their binoculars. It passed overhead a short distance to the east and it travelled just under the moon, which was quite high in the eastern sky.

It was the same bright light, similar in size and brightness to Venus, as observed from the front

and the rear of the craft as it travelled across the sky at an even speed taking about 5 minutes to travel from the southern to the northern horizon.

Before it reached the northern horizon of low hills and still quite high in the sky, it changed colour to a dark red and was observed as a red light for about 25 seconds before it suddenly accelerated and vanished within the view of my binoculars. My friends observed the same colour change with their binoculars. It made no sound.

Adelaide

Tuesday 01/10/02, 09:50 p.m.

After watching chemtrails all day over Adelaide and seeing them form a haze in the sky, my wife and I went out for dinner and returned at about 09:30 p.m. The night sky was clear at that time as we prepared for bed. I went out for a last look around.

As I stepped around the northwest corner of the house and looked up, I saw a red glowing translucent "cloud" in the sky, directly above the hills, just south of Aberfoyle Park. It was no more than a quarter mile away, just above the treetops. It was the size of a football at arms length. It was not moving and was an intense pinkish red with beams of light projecting upward and outward. I called my wife out of bed to have a look and she described seeing the same thing as I.

Thoughts I generated while watching this were first that it reminded me of an aurora (northern lights) I had seen in the northern hemisphere yet it was an isolated formation that I could see the darkness of the sky around, behind and underneath it. It began to fade or dissipate and then returned again.

Queensland Sighting Reports

I saw what appeared like auto headlight beams shooting upward but then there were three, four, five and more of these beams of light that seemed to emit from it, fanning out. It faded once more and I thought it was going away but re-appeared a little smaller with one huge wide beam of light that seemed to shoot up to infinity in the night sky.

I thought about the possibility of a fire on the other side of the hill reflecting light but that didn't match up either, as I have a certificate as a wildland firefighter, and know what that looks like. There was no smoke, a slight breeze in the air.

I almost expected some type of craft to rise up over the hill but it slowly and gradually faded and returned to the black night sky. This lasted around fifteen minutes total but I don't know how long it was there before I went outside.

Whittlesea, Victoria October 2002, Evening

I was on the Whittlesea Rd heading home when I saw a bright light, yellowish, sort of floating and up high, so I thought it was a plane. But

then I realised there were no strobe lights on the plane, but just as I thought this some strobe lights came on, so I thought it was a plane again and was watching it out of the corner of my eye.

Then it disappeared, but about 10 minutes later the same light appeared about half a kilometre behind me, so I now thought it was a car, but it never came closer to me. I got to Whittlesea and went through a fast-food drive-through, which took about 10 minutes then got back on the road, and this thing was behind me again.

By this time I was on Plenty Rd and knew that I could go down a road that no one uses and still be on the way home. So I turned down this road and the thing followed me so I pulled over and waited for it to pass, and it just stayed the same distance away. Eventually I continued home with the light staying the same distance behind me.

It was always in the rear-vision mirror. I saw it for a good half an hour, and it really did follow me so I don't know what to think, but it was very yellowish, nothing like headlights at all. The road was covered in mist on corners, and dips, just to add to the effect.

Summer Moon Illusion

NAASA Science News

Summer is a good time to spot giant moons very near the horizon. It's the season for the mysterious "moon illusion."

If you go outside around 09:00 p.m. and look to the east, rising above the horizon you might see a giant moon. It is usually bright, very likely pink or orange in colour, and swollen.

The moon is real, but its surprisingly large diameter is an illusion - the "moon illusion."

The moon illusion is a well-known trick of the eye: a low-hanging moon looks unusually large. The moon is really the same size (0.5 degrees wide) no matter where it appears in the sky - photographs prove it - but the human eye and brain tell us differently.

Did You Know?

VUFORS Sightings Hotline Phone Number

=== (03) 9506 7080 ===

Please report your sighting to this number.

This is **not** a 0055 or 1900 service. Your call is charged at **standard rates**.

The VUFORS email address vufors@ozemail.com.au and web site <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~vufors> are also available for sighting reports.

Interested In a New UFO Book?

Mr. George Fawcett informs us that he has published a new two-part book in which the first part is an objective study of "What We Have Learned About UFO Repetitions" (1947-1984). It is concerned with the effects of UFOs on humans, animals, machines, instruments, and soil samples.

The second part of the book titled "Human Reactions to UFOs and UFOonauts Worldwide" (1940-1983) covers the subjective reactions of humans to UFOs and their occupants, before, during, and after their encounters.

The book is available from Mr. George D. Fawcett, 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, North Carolina, 28092, U.S.A., for US \$22.95, which includes postage and handling.

A Close Encounters Book Bargain?

Dr. Richard Haines informs us that his book, "Close Encounters of the Fifth Kind" (CE-5) is going out of print. The publisher is providing him with a few of the remaining copies and he is making them available on a first-come basis for US \$10.00 each, plus postage and handling.

The list price is over US \$25.00 and his small supply is expected to arrive in early to mid February. Please let VUFORS know if you are prepared to purchase a copy. Provision of a shipping address and proposed means of payment in US currency will be necessary. VUFORS will forward your details to Dr. Haines.



MEMBER
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DISCUSSION EVENING

For Your Diary

MARCH	3 rd , 2003	DISCUSSION
JUNE	2 nd , 2003	"
SEPTEMBER	1 st , 2003	A.G.M
DECEMBER	1 st , 2003	DISCUSSION

TIME 8.00 p.m.

WHERE The Royal Society of Victoria
Victoria Street, Melbourne
(SEE MAP)

ENTRY FEE	NON-MEMBER	\$7.00
	ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$2.00
	FULL MEMBER	PREPAID



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

V.U.F.O.R.S.

FULL MEMBERSHIP:	\$25	- Magazine - Meeting Entry - Supper
ASSOCIATE MEMBER:	\$20	- Magazine Only
OVERSEAS MEMBER:	\$US25	- Magazine Only
NON-MEMBER:	\$7	- One Meeting Entry - One Supper

SOCIETY HISTORY

1957

At this point perhaps it may be opportune to present a brief history of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.

The earliest U.F.O. group to form in Australia was the "Australian Flying Saucer Bureau" under the direction of Edgar Jarrold and Andrew Tomas, in the early 1950s. At the same time, Fred Stone inaugurated the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" in Adelaide. After approximately two years the Bureau closed down and was regarded as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" under Andrew Tomas. This shortly broke from Adelaide and became the "Australian U.F.O. Investigation Centre" with Dr. Clifford at its head until 1958, when the Presidency passed to Dr. Lindtner.

The "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (Victorian Branch)" was formed on the 17th February, 1957 as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" and later that year was re-organised as the "Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" with Mr. Peter E. Norris L.L.B. as President. In 1968 the name was again altered – this time to the "Victorian U.F.O. Research Society".

During this time, the Society has published various papers and is probably best known for its publication Australian Flying Saucer Review, curtailed in 1972 due to high costs and subsequently superseded by the Australian U.F.O. Bulletin and at one stage sponsored and produced a quarter-hour program on a Melbourne radio station under the heading of "The Truth Behind Flying Saucers".

In 1978, following the resignation of Mr. Peter Norris the current executive, Mrs. Judith Magee, Messrs. Paul Norman and Clive Yates, was placed in control, ensuring the continuing prosperity of V.U.F.O.R.S. The Society has held a dispassionate attitude on U.F.O.s, claiming it is a scientific problem deserving closer attention. It has also met regularly in general meetings and discussion nights and maintained the largest U.F.O. library in the southern hemisphere. Unfortunately, the loss of books, probably due to the high cost of postage has forced V.U.F.O.R.S. to discontinue this service to members.

Membership of this Society – which maintains the largest membership of any U.F.O. organisation in the Southern Hemisphere – is open to all who are genuinely interested in the subject.

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